



Foreign Agricultural Service

**GAIN Report**

Global Agriculture Information Network

Voluntary Report - public distribution

Date: 1/29/2002

GAIN Report #HR2002

## Croatia

### Fishery Products

### Croatian Seafood Situation

**2002**

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**Report Highlights:** In spite of Croatia's lengthy Adriatic coastline the country is struggling to catch and produce seafood. Croatia is lacking adequate fishing vessels as well as the infrastructure needed to transport and process seafood. Meanwhile the demand for seafood is increasing as Croatia becomes a more popular tourist destination. Making Croatia an excellent market for U.S. seafood.

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Includes PSD changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
Vienna [AU1], HR

## **Seafood**

Despite increased fishing efforts Croatian seafood yield has been declining. Croatia's old and poorly equipped fishing fleet is not able to fish the outer regions of the sea. They have become dependent on seafood resources closer to the coast, leading to the exploitation of this region. Stronger regulations and monitoring of the annual catch quota are being planned. Due to the diminishing quantity of fish, especially small blue fish, fishing will also be restricted in some areas.

Croatia has 31,490 square km of territorial waters in the Adriatic and there is a push by the government to expand the economic zone by an addition 24,000 square km. However, bilateral cooperation with Italy will be necessary to move forward with this project. Efforts are also being made to strengthen infrastructure and create fishing cooperatives.

## **Fish Breeding**

Croatia is currently producing vast quantities of a limited number of species, therefore decreasing market prices for these fish species. Croatia is looking to introduce new indigenous fish and shellfish species, as well as modernize its existing facilities. Focusing especially on tuna fish, sea bass and gilthead sea bream breeding.

## **Seafood Processing**

Croatia presently has no private seafood warehouses or shipping centers. Croatia's processing industry is therefore faced with transporting seafood from numerous, small production units throughout Croatia. Six of their processing factories are working at only 35% capacity and transportation has become so costly that competitiveness within the world market has fallen.

## **Seafood Market**

Croatia's national consumption of seafood is only 7kg per capita; however, as Croatia's tourist industry continues to grow the demand for seafood will increase.

**Table 1: Consumption of Seafish and Processed Seafish from 1994-1999 (T).**

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
<b>Fish From Catch and Breed</b>	5,032	3,231	3,562	5,450	12,868
<b>Canned Fish - Croatian</b>	2,204	3,340	3,427	2,437	1,820
<b>Canned Fish - Imported</b>	1,660	1,809	2,756	1,301	2,067
<b>Deep Frozen Fish - Imported</b>	7,286	8,758	10,330	12,081	10,659
<b>Total</b>	16,182	17,132	20,075	21,269	27,414
<b>Consumption per capita (kg)</b>	3.6	3.8	4.5	4.7	6.7

**Table 2: Imports and Exports of Seafood from 1995-1999 (USD).**

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
<b>Total Exports of Seafood</b>	45,600	49,595	60,601	43,359	35
<b>Total Imports of Seafood</b>	22,941	27,924	29,954	29,401	28
<b>Difference</b>	22,759	27,671	30,647	13,958	6.